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Letter dated 23 December 2016 from the Chair of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Working Group of the Security Council on Children and Armed Conflict, containing an account of the Working Group's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2016. The report, which was approved by the Working Group, is being submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

I should be grateful if the present letter and the report were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Ramlan Bin **Ibrahim**
Chair
Security Council Working Group
on Children and Armed Conflict

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Please recycle

Annual report on the activities of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict established pursuant to resolution 1612 (2005)

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict established pursuant to resolution 1612 (2005) covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2016.

2. During the reporting period, the Bureau of the Working Group consisted of Ramlan Ibrahim (Malaysia) as Chair and the representative of Senegal as Vice-Chair.

II. Background

3. On 26 July 2005, the Security Council adopted resolution 1612 (2005), on children and armed conflict. In paragraph 8 of that resolution, the Council decided to establish a working group of the Council to review the reports of the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict, to review progress in the development and implementation of the action plans to halt recruitment and use of children in violation of international obligations and to consider other relevant information presented to it. The Council also decided that the working group should:

(a) Make recommendations to the Council on possible measures to promote the protection of children affected by armed conflict, including through recommendations on appropriate mandates for peacekeeping missions and recommendations with respect to the parties to the conflict;

(b) Address requests, as appropriate, to other bodies within the United Nations system for action to support the implementation of the resolution in accordance with their respective mandates.

4. On 2 May 2006, the Working Group adopted its terms of reference, which were subsequently published as a document of the Security Council (S/AC.51/2007/1). On 8 September of the same year, the Working Group adopted a list of options for possible actions ("toolkit") (S/AC.51/2007/2).

5. Pursuant to resolution 1612 (2005), the Chair of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict has submitted annual reports to the Council on developments in relation to the Working Group since 2006.

III. Summary of the activities of the Working Group

6. During the reporting period, the Working Group held four formal meetings, on 2 March, 17 May, 14 November and 4 December, and met nine times in informal consultations, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures. The Working Group met once in joint informal consultations, with the Security Council

Committee established pursuant to resolution 2206 (2015) concerning South Sudan, on 14 March.

7. At its 57th formal meeting, held on 2 March 2016, the Working Group adopted conclusions with respect to the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Afghanistan covering the period from 1 September 2010 to 31 December 2014 (S/2015/336), on which the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations delivered a statement. The views expressed by the Permanent Representative are annexed to the conclusions (S/AC.51/2016/1). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict shared her most recent observations on the situation in Afghanistan, based on her visit to the country in February 2016, and introduced the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Iraq (S/2015/852), covering the period from January 2011 to June 2015. The Deputy Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations delivered a statement to the Working Group, which was later annexed to the conclusions adopted by the Working Group on Iraq (see paragraph 9 below).

8. On 14 March, the Working Group held its third joint informal consultations with another subsidiary organ, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2206 (2015), focusing on the situation of children in South Sudan. Following an initial briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Working Group and Committee members engaged in an interactive discussion on the protection of children in South Sudan with a representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

9. At its 58th formal meeting, on 17 May 2016, the Working Group discussed the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Central African Republic (S/2016/133), covering the period from January 2011 to December 2015. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict introduced the report, recalling its main conclusions, after which the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Central African Republic to the United Nations presented the views of his Government on the report. The Working Group then adopted conclusions with respect to the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Iraq (S/AC.51/2016/2), on which the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations delivered a statement. Subsequently, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict briefed the Working Group on her mission to the Sudan from 27 to 30 March 2016. In addition, a representative of UNICEF presented the Secretary-General's global horizontal note covering the period from October to December 2015.

10. At its 59th formal meeting, held on 14 November 2016, the Working Group heard a presentation by a representative of UNICEF on the Secretary-General's global horizontal notes covering the periods from January to March and from April to June 2016, respectively. Based on information received since the end of the second quarter of 2016, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict briefed the members of the Working Group on developments and trends concerning the six grave violations against children during armed conflict.

11. At its 60th formal meeting, convened on 14 December 2016, the Working Group adopted conclusions with respect to the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Central African Republic (S/AC.51/2016/3), on

which a representative of the Permanent Mission of the Central African Republic to the United Nations delivered a statement.

12. On 22 March 2016, in accordance with paragraph 1 (c) of the note by the President of the Security Council on the work of the subsidiary organs of the Council (S/2016/170), a Security Council press release was issued on the joint informal consultations convened by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2206 (2015) concerning South Sudan and the Working Group. Additionally, pursuant to the adoption of the aforementioned conclusions, the Working Group released two public statements, issued as Security Council press releases, containing messages to all parties to the armed conflict and community and religious leaders in Afghanistan (dated 12 May 2016) and to parties to the armed conflict, the Government and community and religious leaders in Iraq (dated 26 August 2016).

13. In 2016, in direct relation to the conclusions adopted by the Working Group on the situation of children in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic and Iraq, respectively, the Working Group sent 59 communications to 26 Member States and other stakeholders.